

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-52 are considered in the Office action.

Claims 1 and 22-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Takeda et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,549,302 ("Takeda").

Claims 27-29 and 51-52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hansen U.S. Patent No. 6,509,974 ("Hansen").

Claims 2-21 and 30-50 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

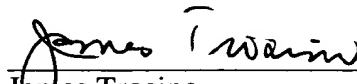
Reply

Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 9, 27, 31-33, 37-41, 43-44, 48 and 50, and has cancelled claims 2, 28-30 and 51-52 without prejudice. In particular, amended claim 1 includes all of the limitations of original claims 1 and 2, and amended claim 27 includes all of the limitations of original claims 27-30.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that this application, including claims 1, 3-27 and 31-50, is allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner allow this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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